

Madame Chair & members of the committee,

EXHIBIT # 9  
DATE Dec 13, 2011  
# 88

For the record my name is Becky Stockton & I reside in Helena. I have been an election judge for about 17 years and half of them as Chief Judge. I come before you today in opposition of HB 88 - Allow Your Election Judges. Last session I testified against this bill in both the House & Senate committees..

I would like to address the Whereas in the bill. The first one ~~is~~ addresses the difficulty in recruiting qualified registered electors to serve as election judges. Sometimes that is the case but it is not a crisis. In our own county, we have never closed a precinct because we are short of judges on the day of election. The election always goes on.

## **Constitution of Montana -- Article IV -- SUFFRAGE AND ELECTIONS**

**Section 2. Qualified elector.** Any citizen of the United States 18 years of age or older who meets the registration and residence requirements provided by law is a qualified elector unless he is serving a sentence for a felony in a penal institution or is of unsound mind, as determined by a court. A minor, 16 or 17 year old who is an unregistered voter is unqualified and should **NOT** be allowed to an election judge. It violates our constitution.

As to the civic education for minors, we already have a Youth Voting Act established in law, 13-22-101.

**13-22-102. Purpose and intent.** The intent of the legislature is to establish a nonpartisan youth voting program that will:

- (1) provide the youth of Montana with practical experience in the democratic process;
- (2) increase the likelihood that Montana's youth will participate in the process as adult voters and encourage the participation of more parents in elections;
- (3) not benefit any elected official, candidate for elective office, political party, campaign for or against any ballot issue, or any proposed ballot issue attempting to qualify for placement on a ballot; and
- (4) be entirely funded through private donations.

**History:** En. Sec. 2, Ch. 348, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 481, L. 2007.

Also on the LAWS web site there are a Classroom section of 34 civic organizations that a student can learn about the process. The Montana American Legion also sponsors Boys/Girls State each year and Jeff Lazsloffy of the Montana Family Foundation sponsors this every year in March. I am not against the students of our great state from learning the election process; I am for protecting the integrity of the voting process. Elections are the responsibility of an adult & they will be held accountable for their decisions involving that process. Students have plenty of opportunities to learn the process that we do not need minor children who are unregistered voters to run our elections.

Please vote no on HB 88.

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